

*The State of New Hampshire*  
*By Her Excellency*  
*Margaret Wood Hassan, Governor*  
  
*A Proclamation*

**YOUTH SUBSTANCE USE AND SUBSTANCE USE  
DISORDER PREVENTION MONTH  
OCTOBER 2016**

**WHEREAS**, Substance misuse is the most pressing public health and public safety challenge facing New Hampshire; and

**WHEREAS**, Addiction is an illness, and substance use disorders are preventable and treatable; and

**WHEREAS**, Strengthening prevention efforts is an important part of the State of New Hampshire's comprehensive strategy to combat the opioid crisis, which also includes, increasing access to treatment services, ensuring a robust, long-term recovery system, and supporting law enforcement; and

**WHEREAS**, Persons at risk for alcohol and drug problems, in recovery or in need of treatment, deserve to be treated with dignity and respect; and

**WHEREAS**, Cooperation and coordination among New Hampshire's schools, communities, and families are critical to preventing alcohol and drug abuse; and

**WHEREAS**, Partners across New Hampshire are joining together to declare their support for healthy lifestyles free of alcohol and drugs, including local businesses, law enforcement, media, religious groups, service clubs, sports teams, young people, seniors, and many more; and

**WHEREAS**, The State of New Hampshire is dedicated to promoting healthy lifestyles free of drug and alcohol abuse and encourages residents to participate in local and statewide activities and programs that promote substance misuse prevention efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, Since 2011, Barack Obama, the President of the United States, has declared October as National Youth Substance Use And Substance Use Disorder Prevention Month, and the State of New Hampshire further acknowledges and endorses this proclamation; and

**WHEREAS**, The State of New Hampshire has taken important steps to educate our young people about the dangers of abuse – including working with local school districts on substance misuse prevention and passing bipartisan legislation that requires drug and alcohol education as part of the overall health curriculum – but we must continue working together with stakeholders at all levels to strengthen prevention efforts; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARGARET WOOD HASSAN, GOVERNOR** of the State of New Hampshire, do hereby proclaim **OCTOBER 2016** as **YOUTH SUBSTANCE USE AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER PREVENTION MONTH** in New Hampshire and urge all citizens of the State of New Hampshire to reaffirm our commitment to strengthening prevention efforts as an important part of our comprehensive strategy to combat substance misuse.

Given this 7<sup>th</sup> day of October, in the year of Our Lord two thousand and sixteen, and the independence of the United States of America, two hundred and forty-one.

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Margaret Wood Hassan  
Governor

